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SENATE RESOLUTION 8 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Piedmont Elementary
School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected officials of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary organizations, who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of Piedmont Elementary are most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people who are deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of Piedmont inspire all of us to imagine a better future and create a better world by encouraging excellence in their students; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Elementary is a small community school nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Jefferson County outside of Dandridge, the second oldest town in the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the school boasts an exceptional faculty where eleven of its members have earned a master's or higher degree and consists of several special area teachers, such as physical education, music, special education, Title I, and speech; and

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WHEREAS, Piedmont is proud of its capable staff, which includes a health nurse, guidance counselor, psychologist, physical therapist, and occupational therapist to meet the diverse needs of the students; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Elementary School successfully carries out its mission statement “to challenge students to become inquisitive, self-disciplined, life-long learners by providing educational and social opportunities in a safe environment” with its modern technology, facilities, and programs; and

WHEREAS, the school is host to a state-of-the-art library, provides Internet access to each classroom, and was the recipient of a grant to implement an Internet project called Take A Hike; and

WHEREAS, encouraging academic achievement for all of its students, Piedmont Elementary recognizes those who attain A-honor roll or A-B honor roll status through its Honors Club; students who make the Honor Roll are listed in the local newspaper each grading period; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the school year, an awards ceremony is held to recognize individual student achievement in the areas of academics, manners, reading, physical education, music, and overall outstanding achievement, in addition to the presentation of the Golden Apple Teacher Award to the teacher who has gone “above and beyond the call of duty” during the school year; and

WHEREAS, the annual Goal Card Rally brings Jefferson County principals together to sponsor a \$1000 scholarship for all students who earn A-honor roll status; and

WHEREAS, one of the programs the school is most proud of is its Terrific Kid Program; sponsored by the Kiwanis Club; it recognizes students who fulfill a contract between the teacher and child, which consists of character-building traits, such as responsibility, caring, and manners; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the relationship between regular school attendance and academic achievement, Piedmont encourages its students to come to school by honoring those with perfect attendance for the school year with a display in the hall; individual teachers honor their own students for perfect attendance during each of the six-week grading periods; and

WHEREAS, realizing the need to instill a love of reading in children at an early age, the faculty and staff at Piedmont Elementary School began its Accelerated Reading Program, and gives students the opportunity to earn points for each book they successfully read; and

WHEREAS, Book-It is another reading program at Piedmont; it is sponsored by Pizza Hut who provides incentives, like free pizza, based on a child meeting reading goals set by the teacher; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Elementary believes in serving its community; the community veterans are honored with a breakfast and a program presented by the fifth grade, where each veteran is individually recognized and presented with a token of appreciation for his or her service to the United States; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of every successful school program is an active and caring Parent-Teacher Association; Piedmont Elementary School is most appreciative of everything its PTA does for the school, such as sponsoring a yearly Fun Run, annually hosting the Teacher Appreciation Brunch, and raising money each year to provide the school with needed items; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Dandridge have long recognized and appreciated Piedmont Elementary School's faculty and staff's excellence as educators; and

WHEREAS, the teachers at Piedmont are cherished by the parents and are perceived as never-ending sources of inspiration who motivate their students to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Elementary School is the perfect example of an institution totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend the faculty and staff at Piedmont Elementary School for their tireless pursuit of excellence in education, salute their expertise and dedication as educators, and wish them all the best in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.